

1994

## The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union January, 1994

DIT: Students' Union

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ditsu>

 Part of the [Communication Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

DIT Students Union: The DIT Examiner, January, 1994. DIT, 1994

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Dublin Institute of Technology at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in DIT Student Union by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact [yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie](mailto:yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie), [arrow.admin@tudublin.ie](mailto:arrow.admin@tudublin.ie), [brian.widdis@tudublin.ie](mailto:brian.widdis@tudublin.ie).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](#)



# The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union

January '94



Bishop Street is due to open its doors this week. We take a look inside to see if it lives up to expectations.

PAGE 6



With four months to go, the exams are already looming. Most can deal with the pressure but for some it just becomes too much

PAGE 4



Graffiti just isn't what is used to be, at least not in the DIT. The writing on the wall says it all and a lot of it isn't very nice

PAGE 3



Woody Allen returns to top comedy form in his latest film, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*

PAGE 7

## No Room at the Inn?



The front of the DIT's new site.

The Students Union in the College of Commerce, Rathmines will fight "tooth and nail" for extra space in the Bishop Street site, which is due to open this week.

Declan Feely, Convener in Rathmines told the *DIT Examiner* that at present the space provided offers room for about 50 students and that this is simply not sufficient. "Facilities as they exist are totally inadequate and will lead to overcrowding in other areas, the canteen for example," he said.

"As it is we could actually be losing out in square footage compared with the current facilities in Rathmines."

At present the union, which will be located in the basement of the new building, has three offices at its disposal, as well as space for a students' union shop and a recreational area, which will be seated, between the two for students.

The first office is envisaged as being open plan and easily accessible to students. This will be the administration area where a secretary will be based. Application forms, USIT cards and second hand books will be available here. The second, larger, room will be the convener's office and also a place where meetings can be held. Next to this is the welfare and deputy convener's office.

While Mr Feely readily accepts that the new facilities are a "vast improvement" on those the union currently has and that people are "looking forward to moving from the squalor, he argues that with 1,300 full-time students in the college, the space provided for them is simply inadequate. The union has

approached College of Commerce Principal James Hickey with a proposal to have a large room, currently

designated for storage, given over to the students. The room, which is on the same level as the union could

offer space for a 150 people, says Mr Feely, and would be ideal for pool tables, video games and a general recreational area for students. Mr Hickey told the *DIT Examiner* that "proposals the students' union are making with regard to utilising the building are receiving consideration. That's how the situation stands at the moment."

According to Mr Feely, the area had always been allocated as a storage area but the union had not realised how small the students area actually was.

"It's a bit ridiculous having storage space in the basement; how are they going to get heavy equipment up and down?" he wondered.

**"We are determined to get the area."**

**Whatever it takes, we haven't ruled out any form of action"**

Asked about the possibility of extra space being allocated in phase two of the Bishop Street project, Mr Feely was unequivocal. "The space is needed now. No-one has any idea how soon stage two will be started." The Students' Union has sent a letter to DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith appraising him of the situation.

"We are determined to get the area. Whatever it takes, we haven't ruled out any form of action," said Mr Feely.

## Canteen Concern in Kevin Street

The Students' Union in the College of Technology, Kevin Street has expressed concern that the moving of some courses from College of Commerce Rathmines to the new site in Bishop Street will cause huge overcrowding in the Kevin Street canteen and snackery.

"From information we have received, we believe that up to 120 students may be moving into Bishop Street this week," said Deputy Convener Ciarán Crosbie.

"No canteen facilities have been provided for these students yet. Our canteen is already ridiculously overcrowded and the influx of extra students will be ludicrous. It is typical DIT short sightedness to allow students in before proper facilities are there for them."

Mr James Hickey, Principal at the College of Commerce is anxious to begin the move to the new site; he has said that it would be irresponsible to have the site available and not make use of it. He emphasised the move towards integration within the DIT. "The directors are trying to get students to consider themselves as DIT students."

He pointed out that Kevin Street was helping Rathmines out in the short



A quiet moment in Kevin Street's canteen

term just as Rathmines was helping out Kevin Street.

"I am acceding to a request from the director of Kevin Street to alleviate problems by given them facilities in Bishop Street which is probably going to cause concern among my staff and students."

Initially, four courses will be making the move to Bishop Street; advertising, public relations, transport and legal studies. During the Easter Break, it is planned to move the library facilities to the new site. After the break the Degree in Advanced Business Studies and the Certificate in Business Studies will be among the courses making the move.

Mr Hickey emphasised that the initial number of students will not be sig-

nificant. "The bottom line is that our people are not going to destabilise Kevin Street canteen."

He said that if the Kevin Street students' union had a problem with the canteen, it should talk to the director of the college.

Mr Crosbie pointed out that there is nothing to be done about the potential overcrowding.

"All DIT students are allowed use the facilities of other sites. Our problem is not with the students but with the way the authorities have handled the transfer."

"They had the perfect opportunity to make a fresh start, to ensure nothing like this happened. We don't see why this should be happening."





## Survey Results "As Expected"

**A**lmost half the Kevin Street students who took part in a recent survey conducted by the students' union said that the quality of the food in the canteens is no better than adequate.

A little over 47 per cent of those surveyed described the food in the canteens as 'adequate'. Just over 10 per cent said it was 'poor' while 27 per cent described it as 'very good'. Of the staff members who responded to the survey, 31.5 per cent said that it was 'poor' and a almost 37 per cent described it as 'adequate'. One tenth thought it was 'excellent'.

Ciarán Crosbie, deputy convener in Kevin Street Students' Union said that the survey results were as the union had expected. "People are happy with the portions of food and the staffing but the quality is not great. The quality of the food and hot drinks was only considered adequate."

The quality of the hot drinks in the canteen and snackery was deemed 'adequate' by 46 per cent of students and 21 per cent of staff. A further 21 per cent of staff described it as 'poor' while almost seven per cent of students felt it was 'excellent'.

Following the survey a meeting of the canteen committee was held and it was decided that a sub-committee be set up to examine the pricing mechanisms and the variation in quality of the service, with a view to possibly reducing certain prices.

The most common comments made by students in the survey were complaints about the unchanging play list in the juke box, overcrowding and the over pricing of tea and coffee.

"These price increases, especially on the tea, hit most people the hardest. People have one dinner a day but maybe seven or eight cups of coffee. It's the second time this year it has happened. They raised it at the start of term and now again."

One of the reasons for the increase in the price of coffee was that its price rose on the commodity's market. But Éanna Ó Brádaigh, Convener in Kevin Street Students' Union, argues that even if this is so, the canteen buys in bulk. "Surely the increases aren't going to affect them immediately."

There were several other comments about the snackery, few of them complimentary. They ranged from the lack of cushions on the seats, a desire for longer opening hours to unhappiness with the general conditions in the snackery.

"For something that is used so frequently, the service provided is poor: seating, food, cleanliness," said Mr Crosbie.

The Students' Union is very happy with the response rate from students. Out of 800 handed out, 257 were returned, a response rate of just over 32 per cent. "It's the best response we've had from students." However, the union is equally unhappy at the level of staff response. "We are very disappointed with the staff response. The survey was aimed at both staff and students."

Editor John Carroll  
Advertising Manager Cathy Ledwidge  
Production Richard Whyte  
Photography Clare Cavendish  
Printed by The Meath Chronicle.

## Thumbs Up for Knees Up

**T**he evening began somewhat inauspiciously when the tallest man in the building, who also happened to have the biggest hair, sat right in front of me and refused to slouch. The D.I.T. Rathmines Christmas Variety Show was about to start and you could have cut the tension with a whisk. Most of us didn't know what to expect but we didn't expect too much. After all, it had been organised in three weeks and there were not many seasoned variety show veterans in the cast.

Occasionally pickled, yes, but even then only in public houses.

It wasn't looking good. Showtime was officially eight and it was already edging towards quarter past; Matt Donohoe, looking, in his make-up strangely like Bono's Macphisto creation, kept peeping nervously in, sizing up the audience, preparing to work them like a true pro. But the natives

thing was any good. Theatre folk, eh? Always needing reassurance. Yes, luvvies, it was any good. It won't win Tony's but so what.

The cast's worries assuaged, Derek and Maire then returned to introduce An Cos Eile, who restarted things in lively traditional manner and this was followed by a series of sketches and songs from the Rathmines Drama Society, the high point of which was undoubtedly the strangely titled "Come back Michael Jackson, All is Forgiven," replete with the kind of double entendres that made Julian Clary the man he is today.

We had been told that a face we all knew from Rathmines would be making an appearance in the show, and what an appearance! Gerry Byrne hip swivelled his way into the stage and fairly chewed the scenery and the microphone as he blasted Grease at us. More songs from the hit musical followed but nothing could have prepared us for the penultimate act, innocently introduced as a Barber Shop Quartet. Billy Joel's "The Longest Time" was the chosen victim and with it the quartet of brave young men provided the single most enjoyable set of the whole evening. Getting up on a stage is not an easy thing and a capella singing is, metaphorically, about as naked as you can get. The truth may sting a little, but it has to be said - they were hilarious, far more entertaining than Mr Joel



Love in the bog

were getting restless, shifing in their seats, willing the curtain to open. And then, finally, it did.

The opening number was sombre, as was the dancing but it picked up with a medley comprising the Bossa Nova, Jailhouse Rock and the Bee Gees. We were off and running and ... it was really, honest to God, enjoyable.

Nervousness was apparent on the face of some of the dancers but that soon passed and Matt once again proved himself no mean Irish dancer, setting the audience a whoopin' and a hollerin' in the process.

Theatre, for want of a more appropriate term, followed. "Love in the Bog" was a bizarre pastiche of Romeo and Juliet in which Lar Moran found his niche in drag, Fr Brendan Duddy absorbed himself DeNiro-like in his role of local matchmaker and the ubiquitous Matt, as Romeo, proved that as a swordsman he makes a great Irish dancer. It was a lively, ribald event.

The two hosts for the evening, Derek "isn't my bow tie only gas" Doyle and Maire "right, ok?" Goldsmith were handling the links with aplomb and they informed the huddled masses - the hall was a little chilly - that the next group up were, generally, new to Irish dancing and could we be patient. We could, and they gave it a great shot, though one or two looked like they were jumping over hedges trying to escape from something.

"World Cup Fever" was hot on their clicking heels, a two-hander featuring Shane Walsh and Aoife Ní Broin as a husband and wife living through the trauma of the Republic's last match against Northern Ireland. It was played with exuberance but Roddy Doyle has a lot to answer for. The play could have been retitled "Fuck".

An intermission followed and the players went around, still made up, asking all and sundry whether the whole



..... that I want

could ever be.

After that, with time running out, it became a little frantic. The cast swarmed onto the stage and performed a medley of well known songs, some festive, some simply up-tempo. But really, did we have to have "Feed the World"?

A little rushed at times, a little self-conscious and sometimes downright gas, but it must be counted a qualified success and as I walked down the corridor of St Louis' Convent the cast launched into Sinatra's "New York", slyly changing the place name to Rathmines. It sort of summed up the evening.



# THE WRITING ON THE WALL

In the words of that great, all purpose cliché, it was a dirty job but someone had to do it. This time however, one of the English's language's most overused phrases seemed highly appropriate, unfortunately so, for I was seeking the humour beloved of college students, despite their wide-eyed protestations of New Manishness (it'll become clear in a moment why I restricted myself to male humour). I speak of the humour that dare not speak its name in an era of mutual respect, political correctness and the ever present fear of a fully justified retaliatory slap in the gob. I speak of toilet humour, and where better to find it than toilets?

A selective tour of DIT colleges' toilets was undertaken and much was learned of the wit, spelling ability and political leanings of the average student graffiti artist. Graffiti persists, despite the best efforts of cleaners to render impossible its writing. Yes, the captive audience is still showered with abuse, gags, anatomically fantastic drawings and general invective but one question kept returning: where has all the good graffiti gone?

Let's start with Rathmines, College of Commerce. The walls of the cubicles in the old building have been painted a deep oxblood colour to discourage the graffiti scribbler (these people are not artists) but determination and bloody mindedness is a formidable combination, even if it's not matched by a correspondingly high level of wit or style. "John Smith!!!" had been scratched into

burning in their hearts and their trousers hanging around their knees.

On to Kevin Street, College of Technology, the new building in particular. It seems their hearts just aren't in it over there. Presumably the walls are regularly cleaned but this never stopped the dedicated scribbler. Apart from the usual crude vitriol directed against apprentices (one person, for the sake of the future of the country I pray it was one person, had spelt the word

to God for salvation was exhorted. You can imagine the responses.

A brief mention for the College of Marketing and Design. Pristine, a whiteness Daz would kill for, completely clean and shiny. One can say no more.

From there to the College of Catering in Cathal Brugha Street and another disappointing collection of lame literary creations. One student had recreated himself as the mysterious "Arseman" and had drawn a bum to prove it, while it seems, judging from the writing on the walls that Billy Bunter and a chap called Galactic Cowboy attend the college. Or perhaps the latter is the name of a band. Pearl Jam definitely is, though one wonders how they'd react to the news that their name was the only item of graffiti on the walls in one of the toilets in the old building in College of Technology, Bolton Street. A very poor performance.

But it's a neat musical link to the College of Music in Chatham Row. I admit I did not check out the toilets but the romantic in me hopes that the walls are filled with notes to spontaneously composed pieces of music that will, sadly, never see the light of day.

(Given the transient nature of graffiti, some of the stuff noted here is probably gone - do not mourn.



Graffiti as it was meant to be

one wall. It seems the British Labour Party leader has a fan, though he certainly wasn't the perpetrator of the anguished plea written boldly on the door: "1993 - The Revolution will not be televised due to the fact that the revolutionaries cannot get it together. Wake Up!" The picture is not a pretty one: newly galvanised students rushing out of the toilets, up the stairs and out onto the streets, the fire of revolution

Apprentice with one 'p' three times) there wasn't much - a disappointing range beginning with an elaborately underlined signature, "PAULIE", and ending with the old chestnut which goes some thing like "if you notice this notice..." It had been imaginatively signed "N. Otic" Killer stuff indeed. Elsewhere, the end of the world was predicted (six years from now for those who want to plan ahead) and a turning

## NOBODY OFFERS D.I.T. STUDENTS A BETTER COACH SERVICE FROM DUBLIN

### SAMPLE STUDENT MONTHLY RETURN FARES

WATERFORD	£7.00
WEXFORD	£7.00
BALLINA	£9.00
DUNGARVAN	£9.00
SLIGO	£9.00
GALWAY	£9.50
DONEGAL	£10.00
LETTERKENNY	£10.00
LIMERICK	£10.00
BELFAST	£10.50
ENNIS	£11.00
CORK	£11.50
TRALEE	£12.00

### BUY YOUR TICKET IN THE COLLEGE

Tickets available in the  
D.I.T. Student Union Shops at  
Kevin Street,  
Bolton Street,  
Cathal Brugha Street,  
Mountjoy Square,  
Rathmines.

For group bookings and  
travel information call  
Busaras (01) 366111.

Remember, you need an I.S.I.C. Card  
with Travelsave Stamp to avail of  
Student Fares.

Ask about reductions on other  
services with your I.S.I.C. Card.

Fares correct at time of going to press.



STUDENT TRAVEL  
INFORMATION

BUS EIREANN

expressway



# Pressure Point

It's January. Already. All of a sudden the halcyon days of the first three months have vanished. Damn it, they were there only yesterday. Now it's 1994 and exams are looming. Sure, for most they are four months away but they are no longer a comfortable 'next year' away; the deceptive buffer represented by a changing digit is gone and that simple fact is enough to set stomachs flipping lazily over. The greater part of the student body can deal with the pressure but for an unfortunate minority it is the time when desperation begins to set in.

Each year, more than 2,000 students attending DIT colleges avail of the counselling and medical service. One quarter of these express suicidal thoughts. The person two seats ahead of you could well be seriously considering suicide as the only solution to his or her problem and you probably wouldn't even know it.

Such tormented people are not flirting self-consciously with the idea of killing themselves says Susan Lindsay, a student counsellor in the DIT.

"They actually have a plan of action. Fortunately our intervention is timely enough to prevent some of them from going ahead but we don't know how many we're not reaching." A recent Irish study showed that between 12 and 15 students in every 100,000 will commit suicide due to pressures of college life. Since it is widely agreed that many suicides are reported as accidental death or death by misadventure, the real figure is probably higher.

At present, about 20 students a week turn to the DIT's counselling service for help. "Some of them are once offs, looking for reassurance, some take longer, up to 20 sessions. I have had a couple of students for a year and a half. Abuse cases, for example, take a long time."

Ms Lindsay has noticed that the service is getting very busy very early on in the college year, unlike the past. It is now busy all year round, though there are peak periods, namely just after Christmas and just before the exams. "Christmas can be a funny old time at home and there's also the post Christmas assessment." The new year also marks the point at which days, weeks and months seem to blur into each other with terrifying speed, only 'creeching' to a halt when that first paper is turned over.

More first year and final year students avail of the service than others but no year is pressure free and in some cases it's only the added pressures of college that bring out a problem that is deep seated.

"There are different types of crises. There is the old one, present before the student comes to college. Often these are very family orientated. When they come into college, the normal pressures

that maybe you or I could handle might be a trigger for them. It could be something quite trivial, seen as an over-reaction by some people. But these are students who have been under on going pressure, three or four years, or longer."

There are also those crises which are triggered by a sudden change in personal environment, such as the death of a parent, and still others that are self originated to a degree. "For example a student who just doesn't study comes to me for help, asking for radical study methods. Some people and I know some staff would say that they only have themselves to blame but that's not helpful. You have to look at why they are doing this; it's like they are in self-destruct mode."

Not surprisingly, stress as a result of difficulties with studying is quite common. Many students come to college ill equipped with the study skills appropriate for third level. Time management becomes a huge problem, as does the high number of contact hours. In short, third level education is a far cry from the world of the Leaving Cert and teachers who tell you what to do.

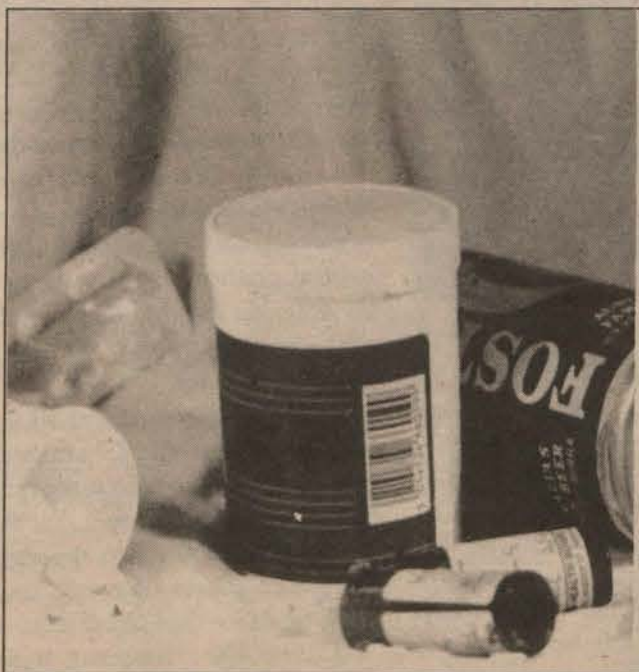
"They've had quite passive learning skills, absorbing everything like sponges and then regurgitating it in exams, and that could be encouraged to a degree but reinforced with some teaching methods. We try to get them thinking about how they're learning."

It's not only college that is new; everything seems to change when you reach 18 or 19.

"It's a very formative time, a time when you start thinking about where you want to go and what you want to do. Relationships change. Very often you move from stable relationships into uncharted territory."

From the numbers making use of the service, men and women, can we assume that the Irish are losing their long and proudly held tradition of bottling up their emotions, quite often using a bottle to do so, and their distrust of those who make a living from listening and understanding?

Lindsay, with the benefit of 11 years counselling experience, thinks so. Fewer and fewer people ask her, with suspicion in their eyes, whether she has a couch.



Manhattan by numbers

## Festival Fever

The ninth Dublin Film Festival opens on Tuesday, 22 February and seems set to live up to its reputation as a lively, provocative and entertaining event, with films from Russia, Spain, the USA, Colombia and Burundi, amongst other countries.

Highlights are sure to be Robert Altman's latest, *Short Cuts*, a three hour story of ordinary lives with an amazing cast; Pedro Almodovar's *Kika*, which features American actor Peter Coyote; *The Joy Luck Club* which come laden with kudos; *Kalifornia*, with Brad Pitt and Juliette Lewis; the Vietnam-France collaboration *Mui Du Du Xanh (The Scent of Green Papaya)* which won the Camera D'Or (Best First Film) at Cannes last year, and Marcello Mastroianni's *We Don't Talk About It*. One to watch out for is the Russian film *I Wanted to See the Angels*, which adopts a film noir style and sets out to highlight the bleakness of post-perestroika life as American pop culture rushes in to fill the void. Sounds good.

Incorporated into the festival this year will be a Spirit of America Season, a Latin American Season, a series of workshops an Irish Cinema Showcase and a number of seminars, one of which is entitled, *Poverty and the Media*. I know all about it. The festival has a happy habit of providing something for everyone and this year students reap the benefits of the its largesse. A discount price of £2.50 is available for students on presentation of a valid student card on weekday afternoons at the Screen Cinema only for film festival presentations.

**RIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.**

**IT'S A NEW STUDENTS' CLUB —**

**SOUNDS PRETTY MOULDY I KNOW,**

**BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S CUSTOM BUILT**

**— NEW BAR, NEW FURNITURE, NEW**

**LIGHTING, NEW SOUND, NEW PEOPLE, NEW**

**GODDAMN BUILDING. STAR TREK LOVE**

**SEATS. ULTRA-DEFINITION TV WALLS.**

**POOL AND VIDEO GAMES. IT'S ALL THERE,**

**BELIEVE ME — OR BETTER, SEE IT FOR**

**YOURSELF. RIGHT, THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER —**

**1. CHEAP BEER (AS IN INEXPENSIVE), 2. NO-SHIT-GREAT-SOUND-BEST-MUSIC AND**

**3. DEADLY TEMPLE BAR LOCATION. NEXT, THREE OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER —**

**A. YOU'LL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT, B. YOU'LL BE FED IF YOU WANT IT AND C.**

**YOU'LL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. I KNOW I SAID THAT ALREADY BUT FOR MOST**

**PEOPLE IT'S IMPORTANT — FOR STUDENTS IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. ANYWAY, CLUBUSI**

**IS PART OF THE NEW NATIONAL STUDENTS CENTRE. AND ERUPTING SOON**

**DOWNSTAIRS — THE FURNACE**

**— DUBLIN'S VOLCANIC GIG**

**AND DANCE PLACE ALSO HOT**

**OFF THE ARCHITECTURAL**

**CONVEYOR BELT. IT HOLDS**

**800 STEAMING BODIES HOLDING LOTS OF THAT CHEAP BEER — REMEMBER?**

**THE FURNACE**

**NATIONAL STUDENTS CENTRE**

**1-2 ASTON PLACE, TEMPLE BAR, DUBLIN 2.**



# REEL Life

I hear nothing Stevens the butler (Anthony Hopkins) tells a probing journalist at a crucial point in *The Remains of the Day*. He is speaking of his master's too cosy relationship with the Nazis just prior to World War II but he may just as well be speaking about his whole life, and in particular his inner voices, which even if he does hear, he determines to ignore, as they might interfere with his role as perfect butler to Lord Darlington. Stevens is a man who thinks he knows his place, and that is standing ramrod stiff at the feet of his master (employer is not the right word, it conveys the wrong kind of relationship - Stevens sees Darlington as his intellectual and moral superior).

But in 1958, when the film opens, Stevens has had time to re-evaluate his past and though it is almost unbearable, he has to admit that he made mistakes, and missed his chance for love with the strong-willed, questioning, housekeeper, Miss Kenton, played by Emma Thompson. From there, as he journeys across England hoping to coax her back to Darlington Hall where he is working under a new employer, a former Congressman (Christopher Reeve), he recalls the 1930s, when everything was much simpler but oh so complicated.

As a film about the English system, specifically the arrogant thoughtlessness of the aristocrats and the unquestioning subservience of the lower class, *The Remains of the Day* is competent and a little obvious. As a story of repressed passion and missed opportunities, it is an emotionally checked tour de force, acutely uncomfortable to watch at times but at the same times utterly compelling.

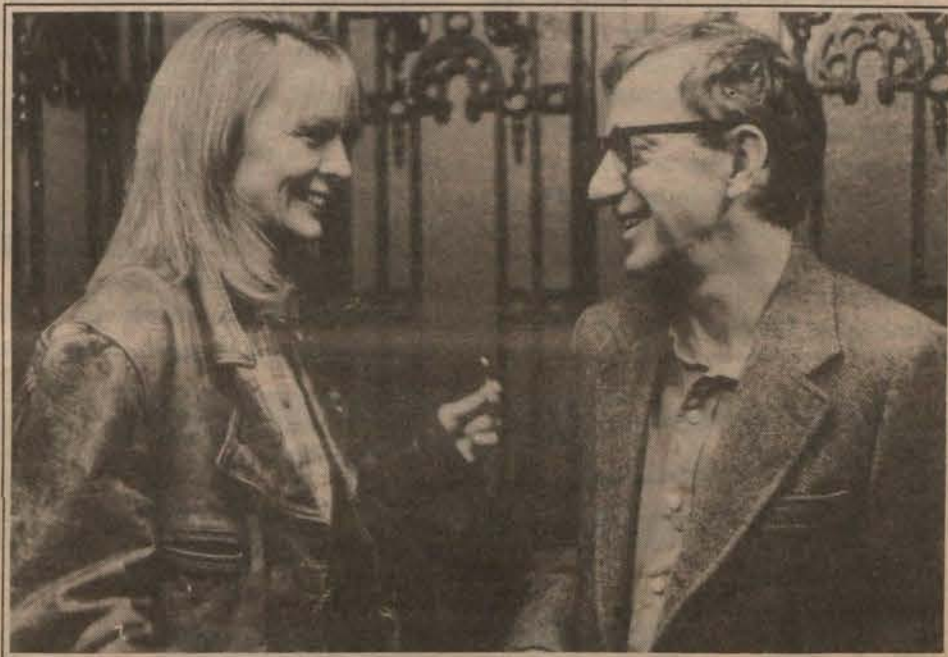


Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's script, adapted from Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker-prize winning novel, is crisp and perceptive, but what takes this film to a higher plane is Hopkins' performance. This is not to denigrate Thompson, whose character is the object of Stevens' tortuously repressed desire and who is by turn tough minded, frustrated and ultimately defeated, but Hopkins is amazing. His character was uptight in *Howard's End*, but compared to Stevens, Henry Wilcox was a free-wheel-

Speaking about  
Manhattan Murder  
Mystery, Woody Allen has said that after his recent heavily publicised personal troubles he wanted to do something light, something fun; a film without the heavy philosophising of *Crimes and Misdemeanours* or the painful domestic bitterness of *Husbands and Wives*. He has succeeded, delivering a relatively light, undemanding and very funny film mercifully free from the angst that appears to bedevil the man.

tasies, the marriage might fall apart. His scepticism turns to shock when his wife seems to prove her theory.

While Allen still takes a little time out to explore the fragility of marriage and relationships in general, he gives up most of the screen time to laughs (he wrote the screen play, from an old idea, with Marshall Brickman). And there are plenty of them. The film is littered with one liners and Allen even reverts to a little of the physical comedy he did so well in early films. It's a lot less frantic but



Allen and Diane Keaton play Larry and Carol Lipton, a sophisticated New York couple whose marriage may just be going a little stale around the edges, a development that Larry seems content to ignore. Carol, however, sees chance to inject some excitement into life when she begins to suspect that their elderly neighbour may have bumped off his wife, who has seemingly died of a heart attack. Egged on by a friend who has fancied her for years (Alan Alda) she becomes an amateur sleuth, to the initial exasperation of her husband. He confides in a self-confident, sexy author whose book he is publishing (Anjelica Huston) but begins to see that if he doesn't at least indulge his wife's fan-

no less successful.

*Manhattan Murder Mystery* is a curiosity in a way, a hybrid. Its got the sense of fun and the sheer riotous comedy of early 70s Woody Allen but it's blended with the maturity and character development of his later work. The Liptons are a very believable married couple and they laugh at each other in a way that Allen creations haven't done for quite some time. Also the mystery at the heart of the film is engrossing enough in its own right, so the sense of the ridiculous is kept in check, just It has the feel of a film that was fun to make, (Keaton in particular seems to revel in it), and its certainly great fun to watch. And hardly a neurosis in sight.

ing, dope using hedonist. Stevens is so uptight he makes us uptight, always doing the correct, if not the right, thing, the set jaw and hooded eyes letting nothing untoward escape the lips and only a little light in. Stevens is as controlled as Hannibal Lector was but at least the good doctor cut loose occasionally.

The relationship between the two is painful and so familiar; we know they should get together and so, we can see, do they, but Stevens can't let himself and so they express themselves in arguments, he trying to make her see her place, she imploring him to wake up and do more than make the coffee. But this is a man whose whole existence is based on the premise that he is less than others. His pain is palpable and Hopkins might just feel a little uptight on Oscar night. With this and *Shadowlands*, he could well be contending with himself. Finally, some words about the sets, costumes and overall look of the film: Merchant-Ivory.



# A Site for Sore Eyes

Only the veterans will really know. The newcomers, the nervous rookies with the shiny docs and the so-casual-you-can-spot-us-a-mile-away expressions, they'll never understand, will never be able to hold court around an open fire, the audience enraptured, and talk with passion and maybe a little nostalgia about the old days, when a free seat in the canteen meant something had been spilled on it, when it seemed as if thieves should be given a set of keys to the union shop, such was the frequency of the break-ins, and when a free seat in the library...well, who can remember that far back?

The newcomers won't know how it used to be because, for most of them, the virgin territory of Bishop Street will be their first glimpse of third level splendour. The good burghers of the College of Commerce are finally moving; after years of talk and more of building, the new site is almost ready. Sure, there's dust everywhere, and bare walls and builderly things such as trowels and hard hats lying about, but these are minor matters and certainly not enough to deter a reporter and a photographer on their quest for knowledge, truth and some nice pics. And so with hard hats jammed on firmly, we entered the building.

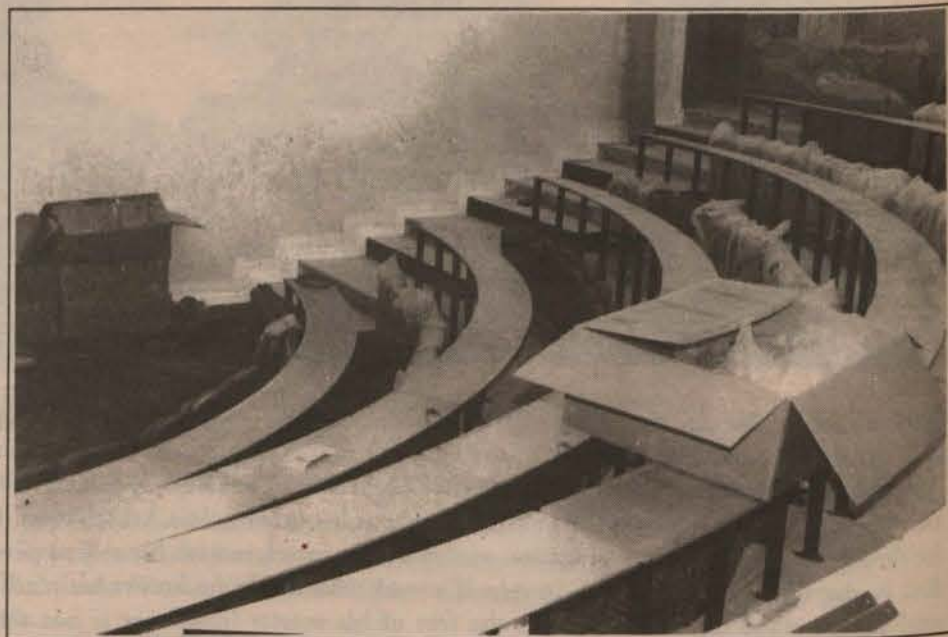


It was an unusual tour, if only because our two guides were so very different. Fr Brendan Duddy, who has acted as a colour consultant (oh yes, its all been taken very seriously) waxed ecstatic about this and that, especially the huge studio on the fourth floor where the communications students will no doubt endeavour to create small video masterpieces. Meanwhile, Bill Hennessy, resident engineer, ambled along looking surprised at our surprise.

The entrance hall is huge, curved and very bright, the light provided by a massive curved window which looks out on the back of the building. Directly in front of it are a set of wide, irregular steps, the kind of place where students hang out pretending not to be petrified about impending exams.

Downstairs is the location for the students' union offices and shop (of which more elsewhere) and from there we were shown to the first floor, temporary home for the new canteen. This too is curved and looks down to the hall on one side and the street on the other. There are two kitchens, main meals at one end and fast food at the other. There was so little happening up here that hats hardly seemed necessary.

The library area is located on the third floor, and this too looks down

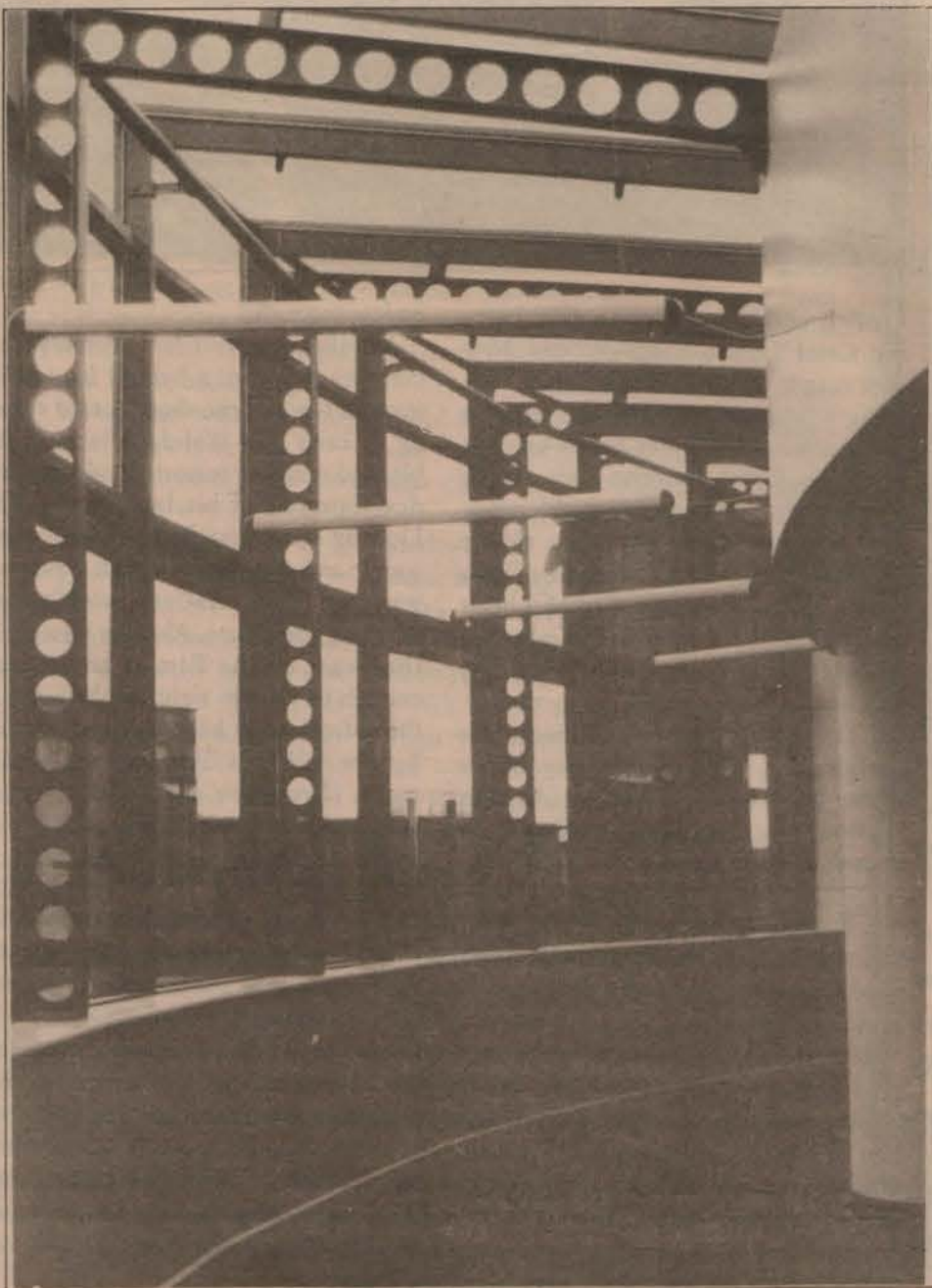


One of the new lecture halls

onto the street and affords a distracting view of the city. It is a temporary location and will be moved when phase two of the building is complete but for now it should suffice.

Onward to the fourth floor and one of the lecture halls, a place that positively screams "COLLEGE". Curved rows of comfortable blue seats (with arm rests!), wide writing spaces and a slot in the ceiling for a retractable screen. This floor is also the location for the aforementioned studio which Brendan Duddy thought was only gear. And it cannot be denied, thought has gone

onto this project, though it would take more than the wearing of a hard hat to qualify anyone as an expert on the matter. That said, it doesn't take a degree in anything except common sense to see that the new, soon to be opened site on Bishop Street is a tremendous boost for the DIT in general and the College of Commerce in particular, and while the hoary old veterans of Rathmines will be able to gaze into middle distance and wax lengthily about the hard times, the shiny newcomers can ably retort: "yes, but I can get a seat in the library."



Slick post mod interior eh?

# Ditsu

DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS UNION

## STUDENTS UNION SHOPS

College of Commerce (Rathmines)

College of Catering (Cathal Brugha St.)

College of Marketing & Design (COMAD)

College of Technology (Boltin St.)

College of Music (Chatham Row)

College of Technology (Kevin St.)

PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

OPEN WHEN YOU NEED US.

Guaranteed Irish



# What's on and Where

For those of you who like your comedy scatological, to say the least, then the Tivoli Theatre is the place to be on any of the following dates: 7-12, 14-19 and 21-28 February. On those dates the hugely popular Brendan O'Carroll takes the stage and does his particular thing. As the posters warn in no uncertain terms, the easily, and not so easily offended, need not apply.

The unique, and uniquely talented Ennio Marchetto, returns to these shores for three shows this weekend. His is a one trick affair, but what a trick, and when he can create so many people with so little visible effort, who can gripe?

He says that his current show, involving a flick of the wrist here and a snip of paper there to create a bewildering array of famous characters, came to him in a day dream. He dreamt that a paper Marilyn Monroe cam flying from above. Using only scissors and paper he has create over 100 characters, including the Mona Lisa, Madonna and Pavarotti. He plays the Olympia on Friday and Saturday at Midnight and at 8pm on Sunday. Tickets are an off-putting £11.

The Project Arts Centre is currently running a searing production of David Mamet's Speed the Plow.

Anyone who's seen Mamet's films Glengarry Glen Ross or House of Games will know what to expect in the way of quick fire, over lapping dialogue often made up of four letter words. Stanley Townsend, Lorcan Cranitch (seen recently in TV's Cracker) and Andrea Irvine are the three actors challenged with bringing off Mamet's peculiar style. And an admirable job they do. Sharp, superbly observed and very funny in a very tough kind of way. If you liked The Player, you'll love this. £6 for students with ID.

More American theatre at the Andrew's Lane Studio, with Cloud Nine's production of Neil Simon's wry, touching Brighton Beach Memoirs, first in a trilogy of thinly veiled autobiographical plays. You may already have seen the film of the play, starring Jonathan Silverman. Simon can usually be relied on to deliver the one liners and Brighton Beach Memoirs is no exception. It runs until February 15th.

Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice opened in the Riverbank Theatre this week for a limited run. Never really like this play but depictions of Shylock are usually good talking points.

Disappointed that UB40's January 30th gig sold out? Fear not, all ye students with more money than sense. An extra date has been added; the phenomenally successful reggae band will also play in The Point Theatre on January 31st.

Possibly the most recognisable sound in popular music (some would say samey) UB40 have been around a long time and have delivered a string of hit singles over the years. Visitors to the Point this weekend will not doubt have a chance to sing along with Ali. "I cahh-nnt help fahh-linn in love wihhh-th you" Each to his own.

On the same night as UB40's second gig, The Frames play one of those increasingly trendy unplugged sets in The Baggot Inn. I'm beginning to wonder why. Not why The Frames in particular, just a general why? And if the answer is because we saw it on MTV, then we should be quite worried.

Rootsy, Bluesy and Ballsy; just some of the words that might begin to describe Mary Coughlan and fans to have a chance to see her in action on February 4th, when she plays The Olympia at Midnight. Shew has the attitude, the emotion, but most importantly, she has that voice. And if that can't keep the interest of the post-pub Olympia crowd well, where do we

go from there?

Moving Hearts, who seem to have had more line-up changes than Spinal Tap, play Midnight at the Olympia on the 18th and 19th of February. The Hearts have proved time and again that they can deliver the goods live like few others. This is likely to be further proof, not that we need it, but its nice to have the opportunity to reassure ourselves.

Another long established Irish act, Stockton's Wing, play the Harcourt Hotel on Saturday, 29th January. Seems like they've always been with us. I can remember them from Self Aid. Remember that?

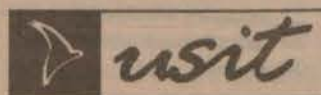
Johnny Duhan, a fine singer/songwriter takes the stage with Conor Byrne in Mother Redcap's on the same night. He too has been around for a long time but never seemed to achieve the success he deserved.

Reformed and rejuvenated after some hard times, and now re-establishing themselves, Aslan play the same venue on 25th and 26th of February. The management at the Olympia don't encourage bopping in the aisles. Good luck to them that weekend.

## '94 STUDENT WORK AND TRAVEL PROGRAMME TO THE US



A unique opportunity to spend four exciting months working and travelling throughout the US. Applications will be accepted from 19th Jan. '94. Submit fully completed applications on or before 02 Feb and save £50 off the total cost. Get the details and brochure from your local SU or Usit office.



Usit, Aston Quay, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin 2 Tel: (01) 679 8833 or your local Usit office



CHARTERHOUSE  
BUSINESS  
CENTRE

"Confidential Secretarial Service"

C.V.'s - Reports - Thesis

Binding - Fax - Photocopying - Typing

Wordprocessing - Laser Printing

SPECTRA Photo Agent (24 Hr. Service)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5.p.m.

38 Camden Row Dublin 2  
(30 yds from Ryan's Pub)

Tel: 4783771 (2 lines) Fax: 4784942



# Rag Time of Year

The DIT Colleges various rag weeks will be briefly rearing their heads in the coming weeks before slipping back under the table, happily oblivious of the hangovers to follow. In their ceaseless attempts to render their members paralysed with alcohol and/or a laughing stock throughout the country, the students' unions have been scheming, concocting, devising and engineering all manner of events. And students everywhere, if at any stage, your conscience or your sense of dignity begins to niggle, remember only this: it's all in a good cause. Here then is what we have so far. Deadlines being what they are, a full listing was impossible at time of going to press.

## Bolton Street

On Monday, February 7, Rag Week kicks off with the first round of the Sega competition. This will continue throughout the week and the final will be on the following Thursday. Monday also features a gig by **The Frames**, another by a rap band and a play in The Four Seasons. Later, perfectly sane people can throw caution to the wind and dignity in the dirt at the Karaoke session in the Yarn Hall. Tuesday's featured band are **The Pale**. For the less musical there is Twister in the main area and something called a Blow Up and Press Dolls Competition. A Hen and Stag party will also be staged. Wednesday arrives and by now some the faders can be spotted, the rest

will be conspicuous by their absence. They'll miss the comedian in the Yarn Hall and the Pub Quiz in The Four Seasons.

Thursday is the final full day of events. There'll be a fashion show, a bed push, Mr Blobby will be making an appearance and its also Rag Ball night. Films will be shown every day during the week, including the day of rest and recriminations, Friday.

## Cathal Brugha Street.

No sooner have Bolton Street gone to bed for the week than Cathal Brugha gets started on the 14th. Details are still being finalised, but the NSC's club **The Furnace** has been booked for the Rag Ball on Thursday, 17th February. Probable events include a 'snogathon' (best

and longest) and card and flower delivery service on Valentine's Day, a stretcher race and a bout of Bouncy Boxing, a variation on Sumo Wrestling. Paranoid students can look forward, and every other direction, frantically, for the Hit Squad. A Slave Auction is also planned. The hopeful band highlight will be **The Big Geraniums**.

## Kevin Street

Kevin Street's rag week also begins on Valentine's Day. But prior to that is the Fashion Show, which takes place on January 31 in the Gleeson Hall. This is what we know so far of the Rag Week:

On Monday there will be a three-legged fancy dress pub crawl, a trip

to the leisure plex in Coolock and a lunchtime gig. The Furnace is the place to be in the evening, with a comedy improv. beginning at 8.30pm and a Valentine's Disco from 11pm 'till late.

Tuesday's events include hypnotist **Barry Sinclair** and a mystery bus pub crawl.

On Wednesday, there will be a lunchtime gig, a walking scavenger hunt, battle of the bands, the ever-popular slave auction and the ever-embarrassing karaoke.

Thursday's highlights will be the pre-ball in the Wexford Inn, featuring the **Glam Tarts** and the **Joshua Trio**. The ball itself will be held in that den of iniquity known as The Olympic Ballroom.

## THE IRISH TIMES

### DITSU Simplex

## CROSSWORD

### Competition

**PRIZE:** The first 5 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.

**RULES:** Only open to members of the DIT colleges. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter.  
No Photocopies -  
Entries close: Fri February 4th

**SEND TO:** THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT Examiner, DIT Students Union, DIT Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE \_\_\_\_\_

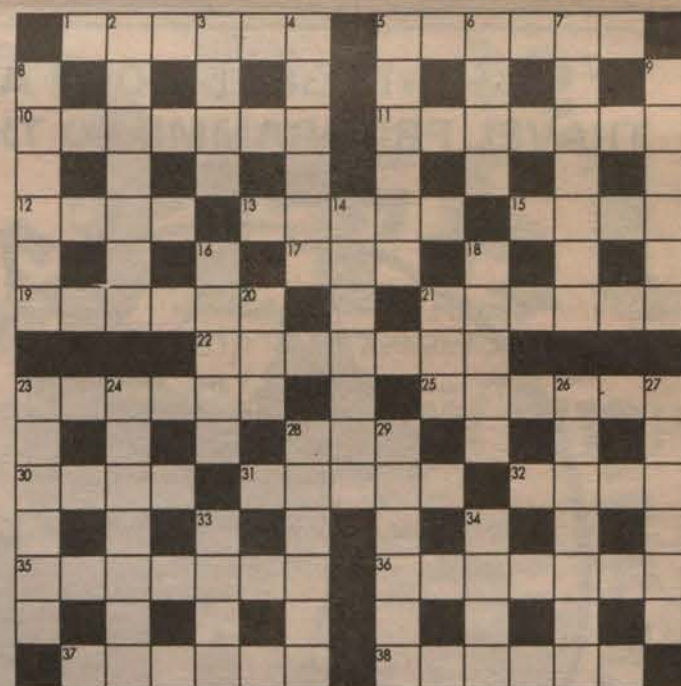
STUDENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_



THE IRISH TIMES  
THE STUDENTS NEWSPAPER

AVAILABLE FROM

**Ditsu**  
DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS UNION  
STUDENTS UNION SHOPS



#### ACROSS

- 1 Choosing (6)
- 5 Scarcity (6)
- 10 Barbed whale-spear (7)
- 11 Young tree (7)
- 12 Object of adoration (4)
- 13 Nine goddesses of the arts (5)
- 15 V (4)
- 17 Bashful, timid (3)
- 19 Its capital is Topeka (6)
- 21 Tales from Aesop (6)
- 22 Plait of hair (7)
- 23 Leader in feudal Japan (6)
- 25 Word of warning (6)
- 28 Turkish tasselled cap (3)
- 30 Furrows (4)
- 31 Wall painting (5)
- 32 Horse's horny foot casing (4)
- 35 Persistently finding fault (7)
- 36 Obstacle, fence (7)
- 37 Right, acute and obtuse (6)
- 38 Lack of emotion and interest (6)

#### DOWN

- 2 Steal (7)
- 3 Fe (4)
- 4 Person with exceptional ability (6)
- 5 Famous film-maker (6)
- 6 Cleopatra's snakes (4)
- 7 Of little consequence (7)
- 8 Become smaller (6)
- 9 Is of the same opinion (6)
- 14 Movable window screen (7)
- 16 Eastern half of new Guinea (5)
- 18 High winds (5)
- 20 Transgression of moral law (3)
- 21 White lie (3)
- 23 Calm and tranquil (6)
- 24 Eight-sided figure
- 26 Do away with (7)
- 27 Endeavor, exertion (6)
- 28 Plants such as mushroom (6)
- 29 Its capital is Lusaka (6)
- 33 Ledge beneath window (4)
- 34 Operatic solo (4)

COMPETITION NO. 1



# This Sporting Life

## Cathal Brugha Street.

- \* At present, water safety classes are being held in Sean McDermott Street pool between 8-9pm on Wednesdays. Students from all DITs are welcome.
- \* Plans are afoot to hold an inter-DIT Golf competition in April, with Lecturers taking on Students. Watch this space for further details.
- \* More inter-site sports activities on Wednesdays with the respective volleyball teams battling it out in the Belvedere Gym between 5.45-6.45pm.
- \* Also in the Belvedere Gym is ladies' soccer (Mondays, 5.45-6.45) and men's soccer (Mondays, 6.45-7.45), basketball (Wednesdays, 6.45-7.45) and Badminton (5.45-6.45)
- \* New to the Linen Hall on the same night is aerobics between 6-7pm.

## COMAD

- \* COMAD's basketball team take on Galway RTC on Thursday, February 3 in St Patrick's Drumcondra.
- \* HESF annual swimming gala in Donaghmede on the first weekend in March.
- \* More swimming: Irish intervarsities will take place in UCC on the 10th and 11th February.

- \* There will be a rugby tour to London, Brussels and Amsterdam from the 19th-27th March

## College of Commerce

- \* The sporting world in Rathmines is very busy, as usual, and the following are some of the upcoming events involving the sports clubs in Rathmines.
- \* The Soccer 'B' team have two competitive matches coming up, one against Dundalk R.T.C. on February 2nd and an away match against the N.C.I.R. on February 16th.
- \* The weather has, as usual, played havoc with the sporting fixtures but still we battle on. Due to the bad weather, the class soccer league is behind schedule. However, the first round is almost complete, with only two games left to be played. There will be a meeting in early February for the second round draw.
- \* The basketball club is as active as ever, with training in the Church Hall

every Monday and Thursday from 4-6pm. New members are always welcome, with women players an urgent requirement. The club is planning a trip to Cork in early March and there may also be an inter-D.I.T. blitz in



National Basketball Arena in Tymon Park, Tallaght, in the near future.

- \* Some of the facilities provided in the Leinster Cricket Club are once again available to Rathmines Students this term. Squash courts are available between 2-4.30pm but please book your courts through Herbie.

- \* The G.A.A. has also been busy at D.I.T. level. On the weekend of the 26th and 27th of February it will host the Trench Cup (inter-varsity football event) in the V.E.C. grounds in Terenure. Closer to home, there will be an inter-class seven-a-side Gaelic football blitz in mid-February - watch the notice boards for details.

- \* The trials for the D.I.T. Swimming team will be held on the next two weeks (so Joe Diggins says) and the D.I.T. team will travel to Cork in early February to compete in the Inter-Varsity competition. Rathmines students can avail of the swimming pool in Rathmines on  
Wednesday Mornings 7.30-9.00am  
Thursday Mornings 7.30-9.00am  
Thursday Afternoons 1.00-2.00pm for free!

- \* 'The Bashers' are hoping to go to Twickenham on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of February to play a match and later support Ireland in the rugby international.

As usual, keep an eye on the notice boards for details of all upcoming sporting events. You can contact your sports officer, if you have any queries regarding any event.

## GRANT BOOST FOR DIT

The Dublin Institute of Technology is to receive the biggest single grant from the proposed £120 million spending programme on third level education which the Government is forwarding to the European Commission for approval. The programme is to be part of the National Development Plan. The DIT will benefit to the tune of £11.75 million and it is intended that the money be used to the provision of hotel training, tourism and marketing and design facilities within the institution. The European Union funds are designed to augment works funded by the exchequer which will amount to £16 million this year. Announcing the proposals, the Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach said that most of the projects will be completed during the first four years of the National Plan. All seven of the state's universities and its 11 regional technological will benefit under the spending proposals.

## GENDER POLICY WARNING

The DIT has been warned by the Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach about the low number of women being nominated to Governing Bodies. Last Autumn, The Minister requested a 40 per cent quota for women members. Ms Bhreathnach has made it known that in future she will require greater female representation on the Governing Bodies of the DIT and the country's Regional Technical Colleges. Legislation establishing the DIT as an independent institution last year has a clause stating that governing bodies have an "appropriate" gender balance but no specifics are given. The Minister has no powers of selection, except for chairpersons, but she has the power to approve nominations.

## VOTING RIGHTS MOTION

A private members' motion is to be tabled in the Dail which would extend the right to vote in Seanad Elections to the colleges of the Dublin Institute of Technology, as well as Dublin City University, the Universities of Limerick and the regional technical colleges. The motion is to be tabled by Fine Gael and the party's spokesman on education, Mr Jim Higgins has said that it is "flagrantly unjust" that graduates of these new colleges and universities should be allowed vote in the Seanad Elections

## '94 STUDENT WORK AND TRAVEL PROGRAMME TO THE US



A unique opportunity to spend four exciting months working and travelling throughout the US. Applications will be accepted from 19th Jan. '94. Submit fully completed applications on or before 02 Feb and save £50 off the total cost. Get the details and brochure from your local SU or Usit office.



Usit, Aston Quay, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin 2 Tel: (01) 679 8833 or your local Usit office



# Having fun student style

For most students, money is a commodity that attains near mythic proportions; they've heard of it, perhaps saw some once but surely it can't exist in the amounts they've been told. Even when it does make a guest appearance in their lives, it tends to be stretched thinner than their soup. But what happens to a student when he or she is given, actually presented with, £20? An interesting question which we decided ought to be answered. A willing student was found and the money changed hands. Can you guess what he did yet?

It seems that Socialism has finally come to Rathmines student union politics. After years of mis-spending cash they have finally started sharing the stuff.

Anyone who's familiar with student politics can imagine my suspicion at being offered £20 from union funds by Declan Feely to spend as I saw fit. No strings. "Just write an article on how you spent it," he said. A bit like Blind Date. "All we ask is that you come back and tell us how you got on."

The suspicion faded fast, followed by a sudden instinct to just grab the money before the fool changed his mind. You forget what you've been told about accepting money from strangers; this man's holding £20, asking me to spend it and then tell him how I did it. Free money, I thought. Fair enough. I haven't seen £20 since Christmas Eve.

But life is never that simple. There's always a snag. The money has to be spent tonight and I've got a final exam at 9.30 tomorrow morning, and was sort of depending on a spot of late cramming to get through it. Ah well, if God had meant us to pass exams, He

wouldn't have given us repeats. And there's nothing in the regulations that says you can't go on the piss on the eve of an exam.

Having decided that I can cram on the way, I repaired to Whelan's Pub, much more conducive to Studying than Rathmines library - temporarily flooded and permanently overcrowded. But it's not nice failing your exams on your own and so I managed to find an accomplice. Free beer can win hearts and minds.

We arrived during reggae season. There's something about reggae that makes it hard to study to. And looking at the meagre, beer-stained lecture notes spread on the bar, I started to feel disheartened. It brought back memories of staring into the Grand Canal a week before last year's summer exams, searching for lecture notes. I remember the guy who lost them remarking that it wasn't really organised searching for your notes in the canal a week before your exams. Now I knew how he felt.

A change of scene was needed. Happy hour was just starting at the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory. The music is worse but the cocktails are cheaper. My

friends agreed to go to the bar. It's not that I doubt my sexuality, but I couldn't look a barman in the eye and ask for "Sex on the Beach" or a "Slow Comfortable Screw". After sampling the first six drinks from the menu, a political decision was made that the chances of passing the following day's exam have already receded, so the notes are put away.

My accomplice had discovered a soul mate at the bar and I had realised that £20 is bugger all when trying to sample every cocktail on the menu. The bar is full of depressed couples who probably went on the piss the night before an important exam years ago. I spent closing time in the Norseman - no bad music and less couples. The union's money is gone and has thankfully run out before bouncers, kebabs and taxi-men got any of it. content with this victory, I beat a retreat to the suburbs, cursing Declan Feely and wondering how bad cocktail hangovers are.

By Neil Leslie



## PRIZE

The winner of the competition will receive a case of Moosehead lager worth over £50.00.

Five runners up will each receive a Moosehead T-shirt and Moosehead baseball cap.

Q: The animal most associated with Canada is ....?

1 The Moose

2 The Koala Bear

3 The Herring

### Rules

Only open to members of D.I.T.S.U. Employees of D.I.T.S.U. and Guinness are not eligible to enter.

Send Entries to  
Guinness/DITSU Competition  
The DIT Examiner  
DIT Students' Union  
DIT Kevin Street  
Dublin 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
College \_\_\_\_\_  
Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Course \_\_\_\_\_  
Student No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer \_\_\_\_\_





# Childs Play?

It is human nature, though certainly not common sense, to look for a scapegoat. When an event occurs that is beyond the comprehension of right thinking members of society, a convulsive act that forces people to stop in their tracks and look on with sheer horror, then the active search begins. The world might be falling apart, we think, but it can't be *that* bad, and so we try to rationalise the event, make sense of it and prove to ourselves that this sort of thing would not normally happen, that it was an aberration caused by some sort of malevolent influence. It makes us feel a little better, though God knows why.

The murder of two-year-old James Bulger by a couple of 10-year-olds was such an act. The brutality of the murder and the age of both victim and killers shocked all who followed the trial. And all did. No-one could make sense of it. Despite the reams of stuff written about deprived backgrounds, lack of parental guidance, a leader and follower relationship and the general malaise affecting society, the enormity of the crime was difficult to comprehend. And that was terrifying. But when it was learned that videos of a violent nature were often in the home of one of the boys, Jon Venebles, and that one of the most recent had been **Child's Play 3**, the press, especially the tabloid press, had a field day. They closely compared scenes from the film with aspects of the last moments in James Bulger's life; they reprinted the sleeve for the video, honing in on the evilly-contorted eyes of Chucky, the killer doll in the film. Graphically, it looked great. It sold papers. But anyone who believes that the death of that two-year-old boy came as a direct result of one of his killers watching a ludicrous, shabby, fifth rate horror movie that didn't even get a cinema release here, is kidding themselves in the worst possible way.



The debate about the influence of cinema and television on people has been going on for as long as the media have been with us. Who knows what effect D.W. Griffith's portrayal of black people in **Birth of a Nation** had on the folk who watched it. Did **Little Caesar** encourage desperate young men to talk funny and become gangsters? We all have seen the anti-German and Japanese films made during the war years and know that they served to boost morale, at the very least. But with the development of media studies in sociology and some very high profile cases, the debate really took off in the 70s. Peckinpah made **Straw Dogs**, Kubrick gave us **A Clockwork Orange**, Don Siegel introduced us to **Dirty Harry**, Michael Winner offered **Death Wish**, William Friedkin shocked us with **The Exorcist**, and a young Martin Scorsese shoved **Taxi Driver** in our faces. All are violent, some gratuitously so, but **Taxi Driver** and **A Clockwork Orange** are probably



the two most contentious, the former because it is the film cited by the Jodie Foster-fixated would be assassin of Ronald Reagan, John Hinkley (he said he watched it over 50 times) while the latter was banned in Ireland in 1973 and may possibly never be released here because of a later, still in force, ban on distribution in Britain imposed by Kubrick himself. Unfortunately, Britain and Ireland are grouped together as far as film distribution is concerned so that leaves us out in the cold also. Kubrick had been dismayed by the comments by certain judges that the violence in his film had caused copycat crimes to be committed.

It is worth noting that there is less physical violence in these two films than in the others (there is only one murder in **A Clockwork Orange**) so bloodletting can't be the issue.

But the violence disturbs.

Violence, however, does seem to be the issue with **Reservoir Dogs**, Quentin Tarantino's literate, astonishingly paced, and rather violent debut. There was a degree of furore over the violence when the film came out and it tended to focus on the lingering death of one character, shot at the beginning, and a torture scene, the climax of which takes place off screen. The violence is casual but it solves nothing, and nobody wins, saves the world or gets the girl because of it. How many violent, big budget, star-drenched Hollywood films can you say that about?

The point is that the video release of **Reservoir Dogs** is being held up while **Man Bites Dog**, a Belgian (and therefore arty) film about a serial killer and the camera crew that follows him around, is on the shelves as I write. Now this is a film that clearly lost the run of itself; there are an incalculable number of killings and a thoroughly repulsive gang rape sequence. Not a peep. It's foreign, you see and so not many people will see it. Certainly not the type who'd be influenced by it. Lord, no.

Most recently, the film censor, Seamus

Smith banned Abel Ferrara's **Bad Lieutenant** on the grounds that it was "blasphemous and profane". The appeals board backed his decision, deciding that "it was unsuitable for general consumption in Ireland". That kind of statement raises the hackles of a lot of people but it is not for discussion here. Mary Whitehouse may have put away her accusing finger but there are plenty still prepared to do the pointing and



yelling, declaiming the pernicious influence of cinema and television on people, well, some people. Few could argue that there are films that people under a certain age should not have access to. And there are some that most of us wouldn't want to have access to anyway. The laws exist but they are difficult to enforce, especially with regard to video rentals - we all know that kids see things that we would rather they didn't. As far as gratuitous violence goes, they do become desensitised to it, not even blinking when a man falls into a vat of acid and is then turned to mush by a car, as in **Robocop**. But does this desensitising process go any further than encouraging a blasé attitude to screen violence? If that is its extent, then, while far from ideal, it cannot be deemed harmful. If, however, they become unable to distinguish between reality and fantasy, then we have to look again. Of course, when we were children, we were exposed to hitherto unseen level of screen violence. We turned out ok, didn't we?

**Home Alone** is the most successful comedy of all time, a film that has a child hero and a high level of the kind of violence normally only seen in cartoons. Children love it, but did it

encourage them to hit people with irons and throw marbles under people's feet? This is not a flippant question.

There have been countless studies, some saying that the influence is deep, that the difference between real and cinema violence becomes blurred, that films plant ideas in the minds of children. Others conclude that children know that what they are watching is fake, that it couldn't happen and it shouldn't be done. In other words, nobody knows for sure.

And then we get something as chilling, gruesome and shocking as the Bulger murder. There are similarities to the manner of that boy's death and certain acts in **Child's Play 3** - the killer doll was splashed with paint and James Bulger had paint thrown on him; his body was placed on a railway line and there is a comparable act in the film. And then there is the size of the victim. But let us try to distance ourselves from the event for a moment. How often did those two children go to the railway embankment? Would it have simply been the place they would go to? And what about the paint? Was it already there? Did they plan to use it? It could be argued that the boys took ideas from the film and incorporated them into the murder. But Jon Venebles has consistently denied seeing the film and his father has also said this is the case. Furthermore, Jon Venebles was the weaker of the two, the follower. He has said that his favourite film is **The Goonies**, a harmless children's adventure yarn.

Films have become more violent, there can be no argument about that, and the likes of **Child's Play 3** need violence. The sad fact is that without copious bloodshed and plenty of gruesome murders this sort of trash wouldn't make any money. But can we say definitely, as the judge in the Bulger case did, that exposure to violent videos may in part be an explanation as to why Jon Venebles and Robert Thompson committed murder? Screen violence may have reached an all time high (or low) but there were more shocking murders committed by children in the seventies, when video recorders were a rare and very expensive item, than in the 80s, when everyone bought one. Cinema and video violence, as unpalatable and unnecessary as it often is, cannot logically be seen as a causal factor in those killings. Screen violence has not brought about a more casually cruel and cynical society; rather it is a product of that society. We could do with less of it but really we have to look a lot closer to home to explain why people do the things they do.



# Double Time

There is a clause in the contract of employment signed by teaching staff in all VEC schools and colleges which relates to external work. It states: "Extern work shall not be undertaken without the consent of the Committee, normally obtained beforehand. This consent shall not be given unless it is clear that such work shall not conflict with or affect the efficient discharge of the appointees duties under the committee."



Eddie Conlon, TUI

Whether or not the holding of an external full time work position by a full time lecturer conflicts with or affects the efficient of duties of the lecturer is difficult to gauge but even leaving this aside, the issue of double jobbing is a contentious one, to put it mildly. The term itself is enough to compel some people to hold forth with righteous indignation. It is a fact of life in all walks of life, and that includes the DIT where there are some full-time lecturers who have full-time businesses outside the college. The nature of the work undertaken is normally closely related to the area on which they lecture and for this reason it can be argued that they are most closely in contact with development in their field and can pass this knowledge onto their students. The flip side of the argument is that their work is concentrated outside the college and that the students are relegated to second place. It can also be argued; and this is the position adopted by the TUI, amongst others, that in a time of high unemployment, it is not justifiable for one person to have two well paid jobs.

Whatever about the ethical debate, the position of the DIT has been clearly outlined by its President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith.

"There shouldn't be anyone with a full-time practice outside the system. Anyone who is should be doing so with approval and in that area there are very clear conditions attached. They may specify that a person does one day a week. This may vary, but a person should not be running a full-time practice outside the college."

There have been in the past and there continue to be people who are in this very position within the DIT. So what is going to happen in the future?

"If there are, then it will come to our attention in the future, such as the end of the academic year. We will have to address the whole area." It is an area that need to be regularised, he says, with each case being examined individually and treated on its merits.

What about the argument that such individuals are working at the very heart of their specific area of expertise, that they are at the coal face, viewing development close up?

Dr Goldsmith agrees that this viewpoint has some validity, but also points out that "it's not as simple as that."

The Department of Education has stayed well away from this tricky area. A spokesman told the DIT Examiner that "it's up to the colleges themselves. We don't instruct them, they run their own show."

DITSU and the TUI have rather more strong views on the issue:

DITSU President Deiric Ó Broin believes that the situation is detrimental to the students.

"We've no problem with people working one day a week but with a five day week, it doesn't work as far as I'm concerned. The students suffer."

He also believes that there is an ethical question to be addressed. "In an era of high unemployment, should lecturers be allowed to hold two jobs? It is repugnant in the extreme that some people can have two highly paid jobs while graduates with excellent degrees can't find work." He says that it is a situation that exists in all DIT colleges but seems most prevalent in Bolton Street College of Technology and Rathmines College of Commerce.

DITSU is currently preparing documentation on the issue.

The TUI takes a similar line. Mr Eddie Conlon, acting chair of the Dublin Colleges branch of the union, says that with the unemployment situation as it is, it is not justifiable for a person to have two jobs, "especially at the level of salaries we're talking about here".

"In principle we're not opposed to people having permission to practice as long as it doesn't affect their students on the one hand, or its not detrimental to their colleagues, for example, in relation to time tabling and so on."

Where time tabling which could favour those working full-time outside a college has been brought to the attention of the TUI, all Mr Conlon will say is that the union "successfully addressed the situation when it arose and as far as I'm aware the people are happy with the time tabling arrangements."

He accepts that there is a strong argument for some outside contact with the discipline being taught but "the balance has to be clearly in favour of teaching."

So the TUI has a clear policy regarding double jobbing but as far as Mr Conlon is aware, the issue hasn't been seriously discussed within the last three or four years, though "particular cases have arisen where some people have felt they've been disadvantaged because their colleagues were practising."



Pictured (l to r) are Jai Morrissey, Brian Murphy (Bia Nua Ltd), Ciara McGowan (Martian Tee Shirts) and winner John Donnelly.

## Award Winner

The winner of the fifth Enterprise Development Programme competition, run by the Project Development Centre in association with the DIT, was announced at a ceremony last week.

He is Mr John Donnelly of Airtect Ltd. He received a cheque for £1,000 sponsored by the Bolton Trust.

The runner-up was Jai Morrissey of Jai Morrissey Shirts (JMS).

At the award ceremony Professor Ray Kinsella, chairman of the DIT's governing body said that the project development's pioneering programme "enables entrepreneurs with a supportive environment and practical training in business skills. This high voltage combination of bright ideas, support and training means that job creating products and services can be fast-tracked into the market place."

**RIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.  
IT'S A NEW STUDENTS' CLUB —**

**SOUNDS PRETTY MOULDY I KNOW,**

**BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S CUSTOM BUILT**

**— NEW BAR, NEW FURNITURE, NEW**

**LIGHTING, NEW SOUND, NEW PEOPLE, NEW**

**GODDAMN BUILDING. STAR TREK LOVE**

**SEATS. ULTRA-DEFINITION TV WALLS.**

**POOL AND VIDEO GAMES. IT'S ALL THERE,**

**BELIEVE ME — OR BETTER, SEE IT FOR**

**YOURSELF. RIGHT, THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER —**

**1. CHEAP BEER (AS IN INEXPENSIVE), 2. NO-SHIT-GREAT-SOUND-BEST-MUSIC AND**

**3. DEADLY TEMPLE BAR LOCATION. NEXT, THREE OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER —**

**A. YOU'LL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT, B. YOU'LL BE FED IF YOU WANT IT AND C.**

**YOU'LL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. I KNOW I SAID THAT ALREADY BUT FOR MOST**

**PEOPLE IT'S IMPORTANT — FOR STUDENTS IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. ANYWAY, CLUBUSI**

**IS PART OF THE NEW NATIONAL STUDENTS CENTRE. AND ERUPTING SOON**

**DOWNSTAIRS — THE FURNACE**

**— DUBLIN'S VOLCANIC GIG**

**AND DANCE PLACE ALSO HOT**

**OFF THE ARCHITECTURAL**

**CONVEYOR BELT. IT HOLDS**

**800 STEAMING BODIES HOLDING LOTS OF THAT CHEAP BEER — REMEMBER?**

**THE FURNACE**

**NATIONAL STUDENTS CENTRE  
1-2 ASTON PLACE, TEMPLE BAR, DUBLIN 2.**